

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to nursing training programs;
3 amending s. 464.019, F.S.; revising provisions
4 governing approval of training programs by the
5 Board of Nursing; providing for the adoption of
6 rules; exempting certain programs from board
7 oversight; providing for the review of certain
8 substandard programs; providing an effective
9 date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13 Section 1. Section 464.019, Florida Statutes, is
14 amended to read:

15 464.019 Approval of nursing programs.--

16 (1) An institution desiring to conduct an approved
17 program for the education of professional or practical nurses
18 shall apply to the department and submit such evidence as may
19 be required to show that it complies with the provisions of
20 this part and with the rules of the board. The board shall
21 adopt rules regarding educational objectives, faculty
22 qualifications, required curriculum guidelines, administrative
23 procedures, and clinical training for initial program
24 approval. A program may not be fully approved or exempted from
25 these requirements prior to the graduation of its first class.
26 The board must be notified of any substantial changes to an
27 approved program, but may not review or disapprove such
28 changes unless the program has fallen below the pass rate for
29 students established in this section. The board may not adopt
30 a rule that would prohibit any qualified institution from
31 placing a student in a facility for clinical experience,

1 regardless of whether more than one nursing program is using
2 the same facility for clinical experience.The application
3 shall include a program review fee, as set by the board, not
4 to exceed \$1,000.

5 (2) The board shall adopt rules regarding educational
6 objectives, ~~faculty qualifications, curriculum guidelines,~~
7 ~~administrative procedures, and clinical training~~ as are
8 necessary to ensure that approved programs graduate nurses
9 capable of competent practice under this part. The rules must
10 consider student attrition rate standards and retention of
11 qualified faculty and shall establish thresholds to serve as
12 indicators of successful program performance.

13 (3) The department shall survey each institution
14 applying for approval and submit its findings to the board.
15 If the board is satisfied that the program meets the
16 requirements of this part and rules pursuant thereto, it shall
17 certify the program for approval and the department shall
18 approve the program.

19 (4) Any fully approved nursing program that maintains
20 accreditation through a nursing accrediting body recognized by
21 the United States Department of Education is exempt from
22 review by the board if it maintains a student pass rate on the
23 National Clinical Licensure Exam of not less than 10
24 percentage points below the national average pass rate, as
25 reported annually by the National Council of State Boards of
26 Nursing.

27 (5) If an institution's rate drops below the standard
28 established in subsection (4) for 2 consecutive years, the
29 program must be reviewed by the board. The board may take
30 necessary action to assist the program to return to
31 compliance.~~(4) If the board, through an investigation by the~~

1 ~~department, finds that an approved program no longer meets the~~
2 ~~required standards, it may place the program on probationary~~
3 ~~status until such time as the standards are restored. If a~~
4 ~~program fails to correct these conditions within a specified~~
5 ~~period of time, the board may rescind the approval.~~Any
6 program having its approval rescinded shall have the right to
7 reapply.

8 (6)~~(5)~~ Provisional approval of new programs may be
9 granted pending the licensure results of the first graduating
10 class.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.
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